(b) the progress made in the completion of that project;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the execution of that project; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) Potteru Irrigation Project has been taken up for execution as a part of Potteru Irrigation-cum-Resettlement Scheme for resettlement of 11,000 families of displaced persons from former East Pakistan and tribals.

(b) Barrage and Head Regulators have been completed. The work of main canals has been completed to the extent of 98% and the work on distribution system is in progress. An expenditure of Rs. 91.28 crores has been incurred till 1/95 against latest approved estimated cost of 102.39 crores.

(c) and (d) The Central Water Commission has been entrusted with the monitoring of the project and an amount of Rs. 80.56 crores has been reimbursed to the State Government against the share of Central Government of Rs. 94.83 crores. The project is scheduled for completion by June. 1996.

Sharing of Ganga water between India and Bangladesh

4259. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sharing of Ganga water by India and Bangladesh has not been finalised so far;

(b) whether bilateral talks are proposed to be held between both the countries to settle the dispute;

(c) if so, the tentative date fixed for the purpose and the venue decided therefor; and

(d) the details of the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Bilateral talks are proposed to be held in the next meeting of the Joint Committee of Experts in Delhi, the date and time of which would depend on the response from Bangladesh, which is awaited.

Guidelines for water allocation of Inter-State River

4260. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared draft national policy guidelines for water allocation of inter-State rivers among the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Main features of the guidelines are: The river basins will be reckoned as a unit for inter-State water allocation.

All co-basin States and the Centre would be parties to the process of allocation.

Allocation of consider the reasonable possibility of utilisation.

Allocation to be based on the principle of equitable apportionment.

States will be free to utilise their share in any way without conflicting with the overriding national interest.

Inter-State agreements between all the co-basin States are normally to be accommodated.